

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9442

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11095

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, MR

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN SUSPICIONS OF US

REF: RABAT 0763

1. HAVING CALLED IN EMBOFF ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DEWARREN RAISED RECENT CONVERSATIONS IN DEPARTMENT BETWEEN FRENCH EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON SUBJECT OF MOROCCO. DE WARREN NOTED THAT IN FEBRUARY 9 MEETING WITH MOROCCAN DESK OFFICER FRENCH EMBOFF HAD BEEN TOLD THAT MOROCCAN DOUBTS ABOUT USG INVOLVEMENT IN AUGUST 1972 COUP ATTEMPT WERE DEFINITELY THING OF PAST. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR AF/ N, FRENCH WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT ONE ELEMENT OF BENHIMA VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS EFFORT TO PUT TO REST ANY REMAINING DOUBTS ABOUT USG POLICY. ACCORDING TO FRENCH REPORTING TELEGRAM, FROM WHICH HE READ, DE WARREN CLAIMED DEPTOFF HAD SAID MOROCCAN SUSPICIONS OF US WERE NOT ACCIDENTAL AND HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PLANTED (SOIGNEUSEMENT IMPLANTE) IN MOROCCAN MINDS BY WEST EUROPEAN, PARTICULARLY FRENCH, PRESS.

2. DE WARREN SAID HE WISHED TO STRESS THAT GOF HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH PRESS SPECULATIONS ABOUT
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USG ROLE IN EVENTS OF LAST AUGUST. HE HOPED USG WOULD BE QUITE CLEAR ABOUT THAT. EMBOFF SAID HE EQUALLY HOPED THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT PRESS MIGHT HAVE SAID, THERE WERE NO DOUBTS IN FRENCH MID THAT USG IN ANY WAY INVOLVED OR INDEED EVEN HAD ADVANCE INFORMATION OF PLANNED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. DE WARREN SAID THAT GOF DID NOT CONSIDER USG HAD BEEN INVOLVED.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DE WARREN HAD EARLIER TOLD AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF (REFTEL) THAT HE BELIEVED USG HAD ADVANCE INFORMATION WHICH IT HAD NOT CONVEYED TO GOM. WHETHER OR NOT THIS REMAINS HIS VIEW, OBVIOUSLY GOF FEELS IT MUST MAKE CLEAR TO US THAT IT IS NOT TRYING TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN US AND MOROCCANS AND AT LEAST FOR RECORD IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE USG DENIALS.

4. IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN DEPTOFFS AND FRENCH ON NORTH AFRICAN MATTERS IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF EMBASSY COULD BE SENT MEMCONS FOR ITS INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY SINCE FRENCH OBVIOUSLY ANALYZE CLOSELY ALL CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT EMANATING FROM WASHINGTON SOURCES.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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